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Letters to the Editor

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"Soviet scientists can do anything we can do, but not everything we can do," said Dr. Herbert Scoville Jr. a year ago almost to the day (Oct. 3, 1956). Dr. Scoville was the assistant director of the Central Intelligence Agency. He was speaking to the 12th annual National Electronics Conference. "How soon they'll be able to do everything will depend in part on their rapidly growing pool of scientific-technical manpower resources."

Russians had shown then that the over-all quality of their scientists compared favorably with that in the United States. However, science in the Soviet Union suffers from the "evils of bureaucracy" and narrow specialization in training. The New York Times captioned its account of Dr. Scoville's address: "Weaknesses Seen in Soviet Science."

This does not prevent some people from asking whether American scientists can do anything Soviet scientists can do.

SIDNEY KORETZ,
Washington.